

Charles Goddard, Bureau of Hazardous Waste  
Berton Mead, Region 6  
PCB Contamination at Universal Waste, City of Utica, Oneida County

April 5, 1979

On April 3, 1979, after receiving results from samples taken in 1977 from the subject site, members of my staff made a follow-up investigation at the site. They met with Messrs. Joseph Jiampietro and Joseph Alberico, President and Vice-President, respectively of Universal Waste. Mr. Jiampietro was cooperative in answering questions and anxious to solve any problems connected with Universal Waste.

Universal Waste is a salvage company in the business of concentrating scrap metal for resale. Part of their business involves salvaging metals from used electrical transformers. Mr. Jiampietro said that all their transformers are bought indirectly from Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. He contends that their transformers are drained prior to acquisition.

Universal Waste has been at its present site since 1957. Prior to that, the site, along with the surrounding area, was used as the Utica dump. This area is in an active flood plain.

The Mohawk River skirts along the northern and western boundary of the 20+ acre site. A storm sewer runs underground from west to east through the middle of the site and into an open ditch which dumps in the Mohawk River. This same storm sewer drains another scrap metal dealer, Empire Recycling, and an area that Westinghouse's transformer repair shop sat on. We believe that all three facilities do, or did in the past, handle and dispose of PCB's. The three facilities are within 2,000 feet of each other.

Seven earth and sediment samples were taken in 1977 for PCB analysis. Six surface samples (6" depth) were taken from the Universal Waste site and one from the ditch sediment off site.

Samples #1, 2, 3, and 4 were taken generally as background samples, Sample #5 was taken next to a pile of old capacitors and sample #6 was taken next to a pile of old barrels. Sample #5 had an accumulation value of +50,000 ppm PCB and #6 had a value of +30,000 ppm PCB. Sample #7, taken from the open ditch sediment off site, had an accumulation value of +68 ppm PCB. Sample #10 and 11, taken from the storm sewer discharge pipes, also had high values of trichloroethylene.



I am requesting advice and/or technical assistance on the following items:

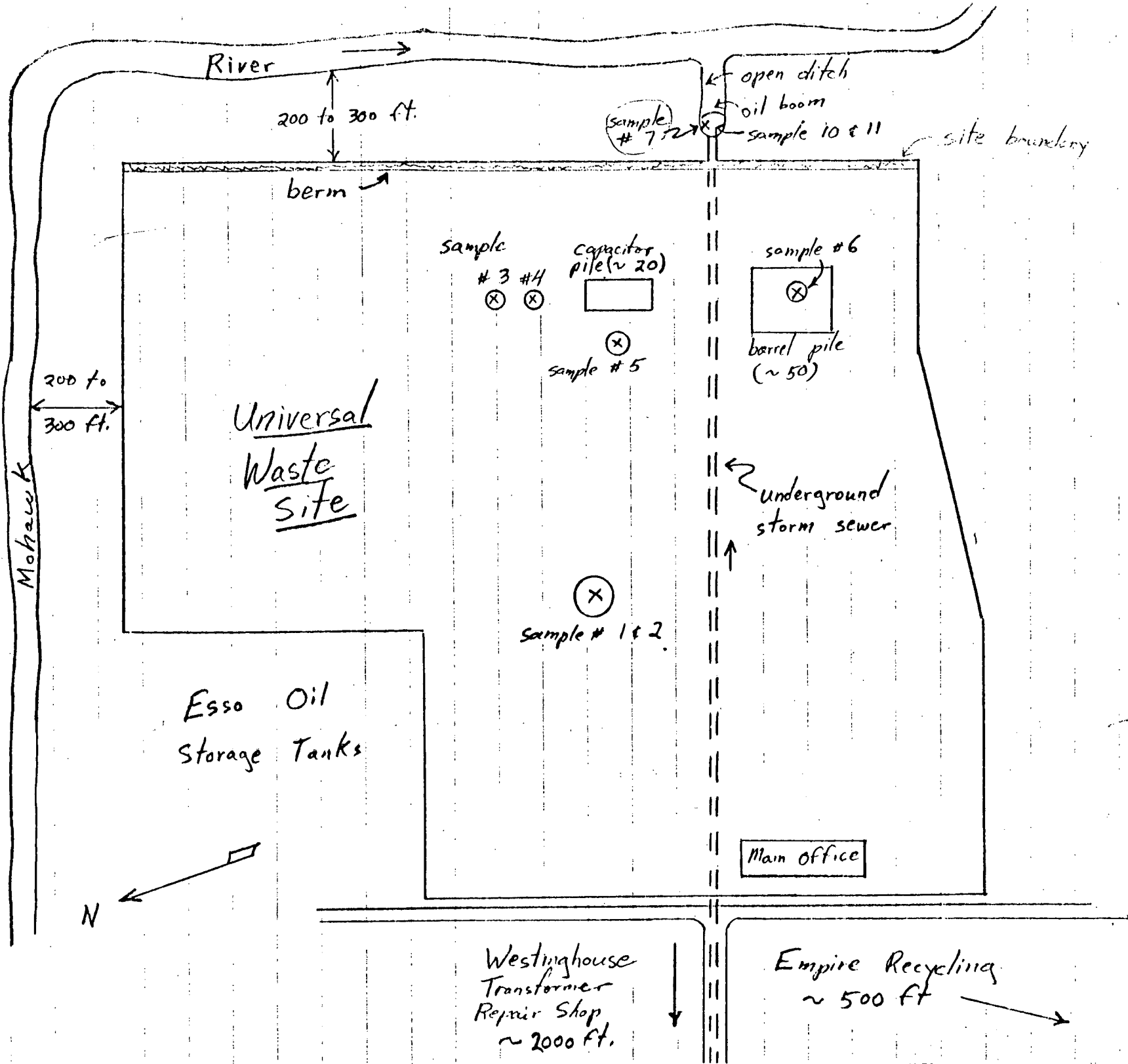
- A. Universal Waste is requesting prompt information about an acceptable disposal site for the old capacitors on their site. They disclaim ownership of the capacitors, but are eager to dispose of them.
- B. Universal Waste is looking for a way to make safe the area in which the high PCB levels were recorded, either by removal or covering.
- C. I believe that additional investigation and sampling needs to be done at all three sites. This involves laboratory time and assistance in PCB sampling techniques.
- D. I believe that additional investigation and sampling needs to be done to determine if high concentrations of PCB may be entering the Mohawk River and/or information on how to prevent further PCB movement.
- E. The public knows of the PCB problem at the site and is interested in what the Department's position is and what action we intend to take to correct it. This decision should be made soon and given to the concerned people in the Utica area.

Please advise me, at your earliest convenience, about the above issues. If a further detailed investigation is warranted, what assistance is available from the Central Office, and in what time frame.

Berton E. Mead, P.E.  
Regional Engineer  
Region 6

BEM:DMS:ks  
Attachments

cc: J. Marsch  
J. Luz





RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

(PAGE 1 OF 1)

LAB ACCESSION NO: 00633 YR/MO/DAY/HR SAMPLE REC'D: 77/07/15/11

REPORTING LAB: 17 EHC ALBANY

PROGRAM: 520 INDUSTRIAL WASTES

STATION (SOURCE) NO:

DRAINAGE BASIN: 12 NY GAZETTEER NO: 3202 COUNTY: ONEIDA

COORDINATES: 43 DEG 06' 20"N, 75 DEG 12' 43"W

COMMON NAME INCL SUBMISHED: UNIVERSAL WASTE INC DUPLICATE REPORT

EXACT SAMPLING POINT: SAMPLE SITE #1 LUZ-1

TYPE OF SAMPLE: 39 MISC. LIQ. WASTE

MO/DAY/HR OF SAMPLING: FROM 00/00 TO 07/14/14

REPORT SENT TO: CO (1) RO (2) LPHE (0) LHO (0) FED (0) CHEM (0)

PARAMETER	UNIT	RESULT	NOTATION
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038003	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1016/1242	MCG/G	1.
038103	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1254	MCG/G	7.
041603	P.C.B., AROCHLOR 1260	MCG/G	2.

DATE COMPLETED: 3/22/79

NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
UTICA STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
207 GENESEE STREET  
UTICA, N.Y. 13500

SUBMITTED BY: LUZ

01-97  
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION  
(PAGE 1 OF 1)

LAB ACCESSION NO: 00632 YR/MO/DAY/HR SAMPLE REC'D: 77/07/15/11

REPORTING LAB: 17 EHC ALBANY  
PROGRAM: 520 INDUSTRIAL WASTES  
STATION (SOURCE) NO:

DRAINAGE BASIN: 12 NY GAZETTEER NO: 3202 COUNTY: ONEIDA  
COORDINATES: 43 DEG 06' 20"N, 75 DEG 12' 43"W  
COMMON NAME INCL SUBMITTED: UNIVERSAL WASTE INC DUPLICATE REPORT

EXACT SAMPLING POINT: SAMPLE SITE #2 LUZ-2

TYPE OF SAMPLE: 39 MISC. LIQ. WASTE

MO/DAY/HR OF SAMPLING: FROM 00/00 TO 07/14/15

REPORT SENT TO: CO (1) RO (2) LPHE (0) LHO (0) FED (0) CHEM (0)

PARAMETER	UNIT	RESULT	NOTATION
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038003	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1016/1242	MCG/G	3.
038103	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1254	MCG/G	50.

DATE COMPLETED: 3/22/79

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UTICA STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
207 GENESEE STREET  
UTICA, N.Y. 13500

SUBMITTED BY: LUZ

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER

## RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

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LAB ACCESSION NO: 00631 YR/MO/DAY/HR SAMPLE REC'D: 77/07/15/11

REPORTING LAB: 17 EHC ALBANY  
PROGRAM: 520 INDUSTRIAL WASTES  
STATION (SOURCE) NO:DRAINAGE BASIN: 12 NY GAZETTEER NO: 3202 COUNTY: ONEIDA  
COORDINATES: 43 DEG 06' 20"N, 75 DEG 12' 43"W  
COMMON NAME INCL SUBMITTED: UNIVERSAL WASTE INC DUPLICATE REPORT

EXACT SAMPLING POINT: SAMPLE SITE #3 LUZ-3

TYPE OF SAMPLE: 39 MISC. LIQ. WASTE

MO/DAY/HR OF SAMPLING: FROM 00/00 TO 07/14/15

REPORT SENT TO: CO (1) RO (2) LPHE (0) LHO (0) FED (0) CHEM (0)

PARAMETER	UNIT	RESULT	NOTATION
038003 P.C.B., AROCLOR 1016/1242	MCG/G	2.	
038103 P.C.B., AROCLOR 1254	MCG/G	4.	
041603 P.C.B., AROCHLOR 1260	MCG/G	2.	

DATE COMPLETED: 3/22/79

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UTICA STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
207 GENESEE STREET  
UTICA, N.Y. 13500

SUBMITTED BY: LUZ

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10/70  
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UTICA STATE OFFICE  
REGIONAL MANAGER

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION  
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LAB ACCESSION NO: 00630 YR/MO/DAY/HR SAMPLE REC'D: 77/07/15/11

REPORTING LAB: 17 EHC ALBANY

PROGRAM: 520 INDUSTRIAL WASTES

STATION (SOURCE) NO:

DRAINAGE BASIN: 12 NY GAZETTEER NO: 3202 COUNTY: ONEIDA

COORDINATES: 43 DEG 06' 20"N, 75 DEG 12' 43"W

COMMON NAME INCL SUBM'ISHED: UNIVERSAL WASTE INC. UTICA(C)

EXACT SAMPLING POINT: SAMPLE SITE #4 LUZ-4

TYPE OF SAMPLE: 39 MISC. LIQ. WASTE

MO/DAY/HR OF SAMPLING: FROM 00/00 TO 07/14/15

REPORT SENT TO: CO (1) RO (2) LPHE (0) LHO (0) FED (0) CHEM (0)

PARAMETER	UNIT	RESULT	NOTATION
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039803	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1221	MCG/G	0.1	LT
038103	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1254	MCG/G	2.	
038003	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1016/1242	MCG/G	2.	

DATE COMPLETED: 7/13/78

NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
WATERTOWN STATE OFFICE B0G  
317 WASHINGTON STREET  
WATERTOWN, N.Y. 13601

SUBMITTED BY: J LUZ



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

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LAB ACCESSION NO: 00629 YR/MO/DAY/HR SAMPLE REC'D: 77/07/15/11

REPORTING LAB: 17 EHC ALBANY

PROGRAM: 520 INDUSTRIAL WASTES

STATION (SOURCE) NO:

DRAINAGE BASIN: 12 NY GAZETTEER NO: 3202 COUNTY: ONEIDA

COORDINATES: 43 DEG 06' 20"N, 75 DEG 12' 43"W

COMMON NAME INCL SUBMISHED: UNIVERSAL WASTE INC, UTICA (C)

EXACT SAMPLING POINT: SAMPLE SITE #5 LUZ=5

TYPE OF SAMPLE: 39 MISC. LIQ. WASTE

MO/DAY/HR OF SAMPLING: FROM 00/00 TO 07/14/15

REPORT SENT TO: CO (1) RO (2) LPHE (0) LHO (0) FED (0) CHEM (0)

PARAMETER	UNIT	RESULT	NOTATION
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038003	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1016/1242	MCG/G	47500.
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038103	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1254	MCG/G	3700.
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039803	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1221	MCG/G	0.1
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LT

DATE COMPLETED: 7/05/78

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317 WASHINGTON STREET  
WATERTOWN, N.Y. 13601

SUBMITTED BY: J LUZ

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

(PAGE 1 OF 1)

LAB ACCESSION NO: 00628 YR/MO/DAY/HR SAMPLE REC'D: 77/07/15/11

REPORTING LAB: 17 EHC ALBANY  
PROGRAM: 520 INDUSTRIAL WASTES

STATION (SOURCE) NO:

DRAINAGE BASIN: 12 NY GAZETTEER NO: 3202 COUNTY: ONEIDA

COORDINATES: 43 DEG 06' 30"N, 75 DEG 12' 43"W

COMMON NAME INCL SUBM'ISHED: UNIVERSAL WASTE INC DUPLICATE RESPORT

EXACT SAMPLING POINT: SAMPLE SITE #6 LUZ-6

TYPE OF SAMPLE: 39 MISC. LIQ. WASTE

MO/DAY/HR OF SAMPLING: FROM 00/00 TO 07/14/15

REPORT SENT TO: CO (1) RO (2) LPHE (0) LHO (0) FED (0) CHEM (0)

PARAMETER	UNIT	RESULT	NOTATION
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038003	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1016/1242	MCG/G	1800.
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038103	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1254	MCG/G	29000.
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DATE COMPLETED: 3/22/79

NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
UTICA STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
207 GENESEE STREET  
UTICA, N.Y. 13500

SUBMITTED BY: LUZ

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER

*Universal Waste*

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

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LAB ACCESSION NO: 00627 YR/MO/DAY/HR SAMPLE REC'D: 77/07/15/11

REPORTING LAB: 17 EHC ALBANY

PROGRAM: 520 INDUSTRIAL WASTES

STATION (SOURCE) NO:

DRAINAGE BASIN: 12 NY GAZETTEER NO: 3202 COUNTY: ONEIDA

COORDINATES: 43 DEG 06' 20"N, 75 DEG 12' 43"W

COMMON NAME INCL SUBMITTED: UNIVERSAL WASTE INC. UTICA (C)

EXACT SAMPLING POINT: SAMPLE SITE #7 LUZ-7

TYPE OF SAMPLE: 39 MISC. LIQ. WASTE

MO/DAY/HR OF SAMPLING: FROM 00/00 TO 07/04/15

REPORT SENT TO: CO (1) RO (2) LPHE (0) LHO (0) FED (0) CHEM (0)

PARAMETER	UNIT	RESULT	NOTATION
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038003	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1016/1242	MCG/G	8.
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038103	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1254	MCG/G	60.
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039803	P.C.B., AROCLOR 1221	MCG/G	0.1
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LT

DATE COMPLETED: 7/05/78

NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
WATERTOWN STATE OFFICE BDG  
317 WASHINGTON STREET  
WATERTOWN, N.Y. 13601

SUBMITTED BY: LUZ

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER  
INTERIM REPORT

INTERIM REPORT

INTERIM REPORT

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION  
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REPORTING LAB: 10 EHC ALBANY  
LAB ACCESSION NO: 07554 YR/MO/DAY/HR SAMPLE REC'D: 77/07/15/11  
PROGRAM: 520 INDUSTRIAL WASTES  
STATION (SOURCE) NO:  
DRAINAGE BASIN: 12 NY GAZETTEER NO: 3202 COUNTY: ONEIDA  
COORDINATES: 43 DEG 06' 20"N, 75 DEG 12' 43"W  
COMMON NAME INCL SUBWISHED: UNIVERSAL WASTE INC, C UTICA

EXACT SAMPLING POINT: SAMPLE SITE #8 LUZ-8  
TYPE OF SAMPLE: 39 MISC. LIQ. WASTE  
MO/DAY/HR OF SAMPLING: FROM 00/00 TO 07/14/15  
REPORT SENT TO: CO (1) RO (2) LPHE (0) LHO (0) FED (0) CHEM (0)

PARAMETER	UNIT	RESULT	NOTATION
010001 IRON	MG/L	0.76	
009701 CADMIUM	MG/L	0.03	LT
009801 CHROMIUM, (ALL VALENCES)	MG/L	RESULT TO FOLLOW	
009901 COPPER	MG/L	0.05	LT
010901 ZINC	MG/L	0.05	LT

DATE COMPLETED: 8/10/77

NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
WATERTOWN STATE OFFICE BGD  
317 WASHINGTON STREET  
WATERTOWN, N.Y. 13601

SUBMITTED BY: J LUZ

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DIVISION OF LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

(PAGE 1 OF 1)

LAB ACCESSION NO: 07555 YR/MO/DAY/HR SAMPLE REC'D: 77/07/15/11

REPORTING LAB: 10 EHC ALBANY

PROGRAM: 520 INDUSTRIAL WASTES

STATION (SOURCE) NO:

DRAINAGE BASIN: 12 NY GAZETTEER NO: 3202 COUNTY: ONEIDA

COORDINATES: 43 DEG 06' 20"N, 75 DEG 12' 43"W

COMMON NAME INCL SUBW'SHED: UNIVERSAL WASTE INC C UTICA

EXACT SAMPLING POINT: SAMPLE SITE #9 LUZ-9

TYPE OF SAMPLE: 39 MISC. LIQ. WASTE

MO/DAY/HR OF SAMPLING: FROM 00/00 TO 07/14/16

REPORT SENT TO: CO (1) RU (2) LPHE (0) LHO (0) FED (0) CHEM (0)

PARAMETER	UNIT	RESULT	NOTATION
0010001 IRON	MG/L	5.6	
009701 CADMIUM	MG/L	0.02	LT
009801 CHROMIUM, (ALL VALENCES)	MG/L	0.1	
009901 COPPER	MG/L	0.05	LT
010901 ZINC	MG/L	0.05	

DATE COMPLETED: 8/11/77

NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
WATERTOWN STATE OFFICE BDG  
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WATERTOWN, N.Y. 13601

SUBMITTED BY: J LUZ

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION  
(PAGE 1 OF 1)

LAB ACCESSION NO: 00634 YR/MO/DAY/HR SAMPLE REC'D: 77/07/15/11

REPORTING LAB: 17 GRIFFIN LAB  
PROGRAM: 520 INDUSTRIAL WASTES  
STATION (SOURCE) NO:  
DRAINAGE BASIN: NY GAZETTEER NO: 3202 COUNTY: ONEIDA  
COORDINATES: 43 DEG 06' 20"N, 75 DEG 12' 43"W  
COMMON NAME INCL SUBMITTED: UNIVERSAL WASTE INC UTICA (C)

EXACT SAMPLING POINT: SAMPLE SITE #10 LUZ-10  
TYPE OF SAMPLE: 39 MISC. LIQ. WASTE  
MO/DAY/HR OF SAMPLING: FROM 00/00 TO 07/14/16  
REPORT SENT TO: CO (1) RD (2) LPHE (0) LHO (0) FED (0) CHEM (0)

PARAMETER	UNIT	RESULT	NOTATION
041109 TRICHLOROETHYLENE	MCG/L	1000.	GT

DATE COMPLETED: 7/22/77

NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
WATERTOWN STATE OFFICE B0G  
317 WASHINGTON STREET  
WATERTOWN, N.Y. 13601

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RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

(PAGE 1 OF 1)

LAB ACCESSION NO: 00635 YR/MO/DAY/HR SAMPLE REC'D: 77/07/15/11

REPORTING LAB: 17 GRIFFIN LAB

PROGRAM: 520 INDUSTRIAL WASTES

STATION (SOURCE) NO:

DRAINAGE BASIN: NY GAZETTEER NO: 3202 COUNTY: ONEIDA

COORDINATES: 43 DEG 06' 20"N, 75 DEG 12' 43"W

COMMON NAME INCL SUBMISHED: UNIVERSAL WASTE INC UTICA(C)

EXACT SAMPLING POINT: SAMPLE SITE #1 LUZ-11

TYPE OF SAMPLE: 39 MISC. LIQ. WASTE

MO/DAY/HR OF SAMPLING: FROM 00/00 TO 07/14/16

REPORT SENT TO: CO (1) RO (2) LPHE (0) LHO (0) FED (0) CHEM (0)

PARAMETER	UNIT	RESULT	NOTATION
041109 TRICHLOROETHYLENE	MCG/L	1000.	GT

DATE COMPLETED: 7/22/77

NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
WATERTOWN STATE OFFICE B0G  
317 WASHINGTON STREET  
WATERTOWN, N.Y. 13601

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